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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/373,240	08/12/1999	GUY FOUQUET	Q055315	2369

7590   05/22/2003

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EXAMINER
LUDWIG, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	𝟪

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		09/373,240	FOUQUET ET AL.
		Examiner	Art Unit	
		Matthew J. Ludwig	2178	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _12 August 1999_ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-8_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-3, 5-8_ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) _4_ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _10 November 1999_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _5_ .

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: .

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTO-326 (Rev. 04-01)   **Office Action Summary**   Part of Paper No. 8

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The action is responsive to communications: application filed 8/12/99. Foreign priority

date 8/13/98 granted.

2.   Claims 1-8 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4.   Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as the claimed subject matter is directed to non-

statutory subject matter. The body of the claim fails to recite a functional interrelationship

between data elements within the multimedia document resulting in data per se.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6.   Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing

to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the

invention. The word *method* appears twice in the recited claim, but does not further limit the

scope of the claim. The examiner's suggestion of changing said phrase to "*in which the*

hierarchically-organized" and changing the second phrase to "*and in which an event is*

constituted" will overcome this rejection.

Claim Objections

7.   Claims 1 & 5 are objected to because of the following informalities: The references to

figures disclosed in the claims should be removed. Appropriate correction is required.

In reference to dependent claims 4 & 8, the claims are objected to for including quotes around

disclosed terms within the recited claims. The Examiner suggests removing quotes.

In reference to independent Claim 5, the claim is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being

of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper

dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The claim does not fall under an

independent or dependent claim and seems to be written in independent form. The claim must be

rewritten in dependent form or declared as an independent claim. Appropriate correction is

required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

9.   Claims 1-9 Are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry et al.,

U.S. Patent Number 5,692,205 filed (11/15/96), in view of Bugaj, 'Synchronized Multimedia

Integration Language (SMIL) 1.0 Specification' W3C Recommendation, 6/15/98 and further in

view of Seok Yun, 'Synchronization Attributes and Rules of Active Object-Oriented Database

for Multimedia Presentation', 1995.

In reference to independent claim 1, Berry discloses:

Providing an improved method and system for providing selectable multimedia presentations within an object oriented *user interface* by means of diverse user selectable data views of each object (compare to *"dynamically representing a multimedia document in a data-processing system via a software module"*). See column 2, lines 22-27.

Berry does not disclose a multimedia document being made up of a hierarchical-organized set of elements, themselves having attributes. However, Bugai discloses a Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL), which is a markup language deployed on Web sites. SMILE was created specifically to solve the problems of coordinating the display of multimedia on Web sites. The reference teaches the utilization of hierarchical-organized sets of elements, which contain attributes. See Bugai, pages 1-6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Berry and Bugai before him at the time the invention was, to modify the multimedia presentation methods taught by Berry to include the Multimedia Integration Language methods of Bugai, because it would have provided the benefit of allowing the user proficient control over media elements within a multimedia document for a well-structured authoring environment.

Bugai discloses attributes that specify the time for the explicit *begin* of an element. The attributes can contain two types of values. The element begins when a certain event occurs and its value is an element-event. See Bugai, page 11. Bugai teaches actions being performed as a result of specific conditions; however, the reference does not explicitly disclose event-condition-actions (ECA) related to the attributes of a multimedia document. Yun discloses system responses, which are expressed using event-condition-action (ECA) rules. ECA rules have an

event that triggers the rule, a condition describing a given situation, and an action to be

performed if the condition is satisfied. See Yun, page 359. The ECA described by Yun provides

a proficient means of utilizing synchronication attributes within an object-oriented schema. With

the addition of ECA's within a multimedia application, the user would have the ability to

manipulate the representation of a markup document based on the document's elements.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the combination

of multimedia methods as disclosed by Berry and Bugaj to include the ECA rules of Yun,

because it would have enhanced the multimedia capabilities of the multimedia integration

language by utilizing an extended rule-set according to an element's attribute and provided

actions performed as a result of specific conditions.

In reference to dependent claim 2, Bugaj discloses:

The attribute uniquely identifies an element within a document. Its value is an XML

identifier. See Bugaj, pages 3-5. The unique identifiers describing attributes within the

Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language are provided to differentiate multimedia

structures. The utilization of identifiers as taught by Bugaj would have provided a proficient

means of establishing associations between elements and formalisms as disclosed by Yun.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to employ the combination of Berry and Bugaj to modify

the multimedia techniques and include the event-condition-action of Yun for the added benefit of

identifying elements as disclosed by Bugaj, and also the ECA as taught by Yun.

In reference to dependent claim 3, Bugaj discloses:

SMIL documents are XML 1.0 documents. See Bugaj, page 3. The description language

disclosed by Bugaj would have provided a proficient method for describing multimedia

documents. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art, having the teachings of

Berry and Bugaj before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method and

system for integration of multimedia presentations within an object oriented user interface as

taught by Berry and included the XML specification of Bugaj, because it would have provided a

well-structured document within a data processing system.

In reference to dependent claim 4, Bugaj discloses:

SMIL documents, which are XML 1.0 documents. See Bugaj, page 3. The description language

disclosed by Bugaj demonstrate the utilization of hierarchically-organized sets of elements

having attributes. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified the method and system for integration of multimedia

presentations of Berry and included the utilization of XML documents as disclosed by Bugaj,

because it would have provided an efficient document processing system within a network

environment.

Berry and Bugaj do not explicitly teach the formalisms associated with event-condition-actions.

However, Yun discloses system responses, which are expressed using event-condition-action

(ECA) rules. ECA rules have an event that triggers the rule, a condition describing a given

situation, and an action to be performed if the condition is satisfied. See Yun, page 359. The

ECA described by Yun provides a proficient means of utilizing synchronication attributes within

an object-oriented schema. With the addition of ECA's within a multimedia application, the user

would have the ability to manipulate the representation of a markup document based on the

document's elements. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art,

having the combination of multimedia methods as disclosed by Berry and Bugaj to include the

ECA rules of Yun, because it would have enhanced the multimedia capabilities of the multimedia integration language by utilizing an extended rule-set according to an element's attribute and provided actions performed as a result of specific conditions.

In reference to independent claim 5, Bugaj discloses:

SMIL documents, which are XML 1.0 documents. See Bugaj, page 3. The description language disclosed by Bugaj demonstrate the utilization of hierarchically-organized sets of elements having attributes. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system for integration of multimedia presentations of Berry and included the utilization of XML documents as disclosed by Bugaj, because it would have provided an efficient document processing system within a network environment.

Berry and Bugaj do not explicitly teach the formalisms associated with event-condition-actions. However, Yun discloses system responses, which are expressed using event-condition-action (ECA) rules. ECA rules have an event that triggers the rule, a condition describing a given situation, and an action to be performed if the condition is satisfied. See Yun, page 359. The ECA described by Yun provides a proficient means of utilizing synchronication attributes within an object-oriented schema. With the addition of ECA's within a multimedia application, the user would have the ability to manipulate the representation of a markup document based on the document's elements. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the combination of multimedia methods as disclosed by Berry and Bugaj to include the ECA rules of Yun, because it would have enhanced the multimedia capabilities of the

multimedia integration language by utilizing an extended rule-set according to an element's

attribute and provided actions performed as a result of specific conditions.

In reference to dependent claims 6-8, the claims recite similar claim limitations to that of

claims 1-3, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Baleh	US Patent No. 6,141,001	filed (08/20/97)
Kiyono et al.	US Patent No. 6,137,483	filed (11/27/96)

Ingo Macherius, 'Experts Revolution', 6/1997, pages 1-8.

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Ludwig whose telephone number is 703-305-8043.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular

communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

ML
May 19, 2003

HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100